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NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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## Cuts to funding prompt fears over drop in quality of rural life



The impact of the lost council bus service subsidies is expected to be felt in communities around Banbury, including Bodicote

# MANY SET TO MISS THE BUS

RURAL communities around Banbury face a "significant" drop in their quality of life after cuts were agreed to the county's bus routes, it has been warned.

There are 118 bus routes in Oxfordshire subsidised by the county council at a cost of £3.7 million; introduced because bus companies said running them was not commercially viable.

But last week councillors voted to stop the subsidies as part of cost-cutting measures.

It is part of wider cuts of almost £290 million agreed by the local authority since 2010 – due to reductions in its Government funding – and it could be forced to find £50 million more this winter.

Bus routes in Banbury threatened by a subsidy cut include the B2 service, which runs between Bodicote and Banbury, the B7 between Grimsbury and Banbury and the 488 between Banbury and Chipping Norton.

The leader of the Labour group on Cherwell District Council, Sean Woodcock, said he would strongly object to any cuts planned for the bus services.

He said: "It is all good and well the Government giving out free bus passes but there is no point if there is no buses

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to use them on. It's going to make a big difference for people who are not able to travel. These may be people who have become isolated or widowed, and for them getting to the shops is a big part of their lifestyle.

"But it is not just people in the villages, if a ward only has small shops then residents are going to want to go outside of it to get into Banbury, and with these cuts that may not be possible."

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis has also said she would be campaigning to help protect bus services, and other frontline services in the county.

The Conservative said: "I meet with [council leader] Ian Hudspeth regularly, most recently at the beginning of this month, and I have made clear to him that the county council should be doing everything it can to protect frontline services. There are some parts of my constituency that are very remote, where I know the reduced bus numbers will impact greatly.

"I hope that the county council and other groups, including the impressive voluntary groups that run some

transport services locally, can work together to find a solution."

Oxfordshire County Council is holding a public consultation to help decide how more cuts could be made to its budget next year.

Bodicote resident Ron Glynn, 73, also a member of the parish council, said: "It angers me when they [councillors] talk about cuts but still continue to build new housing developments and new schools without thinking of the people living here."

The cuts have also been objected to by the Oxfordshire Transport and Access Group, which said it could leave elderly and disabled people isolated.



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## Sitting is a 'first'

**OXFORD:** The first Parliamentary sitting in Oxford for more than 300 years is to take place today.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee is due to meet at the Bodleian Library, off Broad Street.

Its chairman is Oxford West MP Nicola Blackwood, who is currently leading inquiries into the national science budget, 'big data', science in emergencies and the Investigatory Powers Bill.

More than 80 pupils from county schools and young people taking part in Oxfordshire County Council's 'find your voice' project are also expected to attend.

## 'Mayoral matter'

**OXON:** A national think tank has warned Oxfordshire's bid for new spending powers from the Government could be hampered if it does not include a directly-elected mayor.

The Institute for Public Policy said those that included a mayor in their bids were "more likely to receive the substantial powers they want". But it said there was "a lack of clarity" on whether this was a cast-iron requirement. The Treasury has said previously that it is.

A mayor is not proposed for Oxfordshire, but county council leader Ian Hudspeth said he remained "open minded" about the idea.

## Elderly concern

**OXON:** Discussions on how to care for Oxfordshire's growing, ageing population were due to take place today.

The new chief executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Dr Bruno Holthof, was expected to present his initial observations to the meeting of the county's joint health overview and scrutiny committee.

# Hospital trust owns art collection worth £400k



Artists Kat Hutchison and Tim Clement erecting their horse sculpture at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in 2013

A FREEDOM of information request has revealed the trust which runs Oxfordshire's biggest hospitals has an art collection worth "approximately" £400,000.

But Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT) admitted it is not sure of the exact amount because it does not have an inventory.

The trust, which manages the Horton in Banbury, the John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford, said it owned "approximately" 2,000 works.

But responding to a Freedom of Information request from the *Banbury Cake* this month the organisation admitted it did not have a full list anywhere.

Freedom of information officer Valerie Gray said: "The total value or the number of artworks owned by the trust is not known as there is no complete inventory of the art held across the four hospital sites."

She said putting together a full inventory and valuing all pieces would take several weeks.

Ms Gray added that all art was currently on display, except for "a very small number of pieces" which were "unsuitable" or damaged.

The *Banbury Cake* also asked for the value of the trust's 10 most valuable pieces, to which she responded:

"While it would be possible to give an estimated value, we are concerned with the obvious theft risk if we were to indicate which these were."

The estimated £400,000 value of art is tiny compared to the trust's operating expenditure for 2014/15 of £898 million.

Ms Gray said works were installed at hospitals to make them more welcoming and attractive environments for patients and to provide "engaging activities".

In September, it was revealed, also using the Freedom of Information Act, that councils in Oxfordshire own art and antiques worth £2.5 million.

Patient watchdog Healthwatch Oxfordshire declined to comment on the value of art owned by OUHFT.

# Chef spared jail after 'inexplicable' delays

Judge releases man in drug case after it takes police almost a year to move charges to trial

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A PROFESSIONAL chef caught with more than £4,000 worth of a Class-B drug during a burglary avoided jail after it took more than a year to bring the case to court.

Judge Peter Ross spared Justin Cusack an immediate prison sentence because of what he described as "inexplicable" delays.

Police were called to a burglary at a Banbury home on October 14, 2014, and arrived to find three men in a back

garden. When the officers told the men they were going to search them, 28-year-old Cusack tried to jump over the garden fence.

Cusack was arrested, and was found to have set of electronic scales and a box described as a "double plug socket" which was locked shut.

Police found Cusack's key to unlock the box which contained £584 in cash and 216 grams of mephedrone powder – also known as meow meow – worth more than £4,000.

Cusack, who lives and works at the White Hart Hotel in Buckingham, was charged with possession of the Class-B drug.

Prosecutor Cathy Olliver told Oxford Crown Court on November 5 he had a string of previous convictions for possession of cocaine, keta-



Judge Ross pointed to delays

mine, mephedrone and heroin. But Cusack's defence barrister Gordana Turudija-Austin told Judge Ross that Cusack had quit drugs and had been clean for the past five months.

Ms Olliver could not offer any explanation for the delay and the judge added: "It is impossible for the public to understand why the delay

has happened."

The judge handed Cusack a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years, a four-month curfew between 9pm and 6am and 200 hours unpaid work.

Finally, adding the "sting in the tail" which he promised, the judge ordered Cusack not to possess or consume any unlawful drug for two years.

He told Cusack: "If you are caught with a single spliff or wrap of any drug, you will be in breach of the suspended sentence and I will send you to prison."

The Crown Prosecution Service, which brings cases to court, said police had only sought its advice on charging Cusack in August this year.

A spokeswoman said: "The case first being registered on our CMS on August 11 and advice to charge Mr Cusack was given on that date."

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## Discover religious services

PEOPLE in Banbury can find out more about different faiths and religions as part of a new community celebration this week.

As part of Inter Faith Week, which started on Sunday, Cherwell District Council is holding a Have Faith in the Community event on Saturday in Grimsbury.

The event aims to bring the community together and provide information on council faith services.

District council leader Barry Wood said: "Have Faith in the Community will be a celebration of the district's different and distinct faith communities.

"We'll be celebrating and building on the contributions they make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.

"I want to encourage faith groups and residents to come along, share information and experiences, and make the day something special."

Staff from Banbury's Citizens Advice Bureau will discuss the food bank and Universal Credit, district council officers will advise on benefits and housing, and Oxfordshire Mind will be there to talk about their service.

Members of the town council, park rangers and the police will also speak about how people can get involved by volunteering.

The event will also have a focus on food, with staff from Love Food Hate Waste advisors offering advice on reducing food waste, reusing leftovers and eating healthier.

## Holidays' £45m rise

VISITORS splashed out an extra £45m in Oxfordshire last year, according to the county's tourist service.

Experience Oxfordshire said 26.7 million people spent £1.86 billion in the local economy – a 2.5 per cent rise on 2013.

There were 2.6 million staying visitors and 24.1 million daytrippers.

Chief executive Hayley Beer-Gamage said: "To see an increase across the whole county is a real achievement and shows what a valuable sector tourism is to supporting the local economy."

Experience Oxfordshire found day trips increased by 0.8 per cent and expenditure 1.2 per cent.

Ms Beer-Gamage added: "These figures also clearly highlight the value of the overseas markets who stay longer and spend more.

"In September, we attended an overseas travel trade mission for the Americas market, where Oxfordshire proved extremely popular."

# Life-saver gift from patients



Staff at Windrush Surgery celebrate the arrival of their Banbury community's new defibrillator

Several hundred pounds had been raised when anonymous donor made the money up to £1,600 to buy deviceThe spositioned outside GPs

**Megan Archer**  
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STAFF at a doctors' surgery in Banbury were thrilled to have the first community defibrillator installed outside their practice after a year of fundraising.

The first defibrillator for West Bar Street has been placed outside Windrush Surgery, providing life-saving equipment to those who may need it.

Windrush practice manager John McGowan said surgery staff were overwhelmed at the generosity of patients after a hard year of fundraising.

He said: "It's taken us a long time to get organised.

We approached South Central Ambulance Service and they were very keen to get a defibrillator in.

"We said we had been doing some fundraising and they were thrilled.

"It cost us about £1,600 overall but one nameless local benefactor donated more than half of that."

Members of staff at the practice raised funds through cake and book sales, while the anonymous daughter of a patient made up the rest of the total.

Senior partner at Windrush Surgery, Dr Debra Wignell, said: "This important addition to the network of community defibrillators was only possible because staff themselves took the initiative to raise the money.

The partners are very proud of them.

"They had raised several hundred pounds when we were bowled over to hear from a patient who donated the rest of the money, so we now have it bolted to the wall outside the building."

Mr McGowan added: "If there is an emergency in the street and someone needs the defibrillator then the community first responders can have access to it.

"If something happens in the practice too then we can just nip outside.

"Hopefully it can save a poor person if they fall ill in the street."

The defibrillator officer at South Central Ambulance Service, Ian Jones, also praised patients and staff.

## Appeal to donate toys for needy

AN APPEAL for unwanted toys is under way in Banbury for the festive season.

Town Mayor Tony Mephram asks local people to donate games and other fun items for the town's needy families.

As part of the annual appeal toys can be dropped off at Banbury Town Hall for five days starting on November 30.

They can be new, second-

hand or in excellent condition, and suitable for boys and girls of all ages.

Donations will be given to the Britannia Road Family Centre which will deliver them to families in need.

Mr Mephram said: "Some families in Banbury, for various reasons, cannot afford to celebrate Christmas in the proper way.

"They have no money to spend on presents for their

children, and cannot provide seasonal luxuries the rest of us take for granted.

"Thankfully, over many years, generous people in Banbury and the surrounding area have come forward to help those families.

"I urge Christmas shoppers to buy a gift and donate it to this worthwhile cause."

Donations can be made from 9am to 4pm on all five days until December 4.

## Market cooking up a storm with fine foods

A SPECIALIST food market returns to Banbury today, after a short break.

The Fine Foods Market, selling lunchtime snacks, including pasties and stone-baked pizzas, is due to set up in Bridge Street, with about 12 traders selling fresh food and homemade products outside Marks & Spencer from 9am to 4pm.

The monthly market was not held in October, when the

Michaelmas Fair took place.

District councillor George Reynolds said: "We first launched the market in August, as a new attraction to entice people into the town, and so far it has proved incredibly popular. It's a great opportunity for shoppers to treat themselves to something special."

The market is organised by Cherwell District Council and market operator Sketts.

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## Need for 100,000 homes in county is 'over-exaggerated'

THE need for 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire is "over-exaggerated" say countryside campaigners.

A new national study by the Campaign to Protect Rural England [CPRE] into housing targets for councils said they were often "arbitrary and inflated" with local authorities basing plans on "aspiration rather than need".

It follows targets set by the Government's Strategic Housing Market Assessment [SHMA] last year, which wants county authorities to build 100,000 more homes by 2031.

CPRE Oxfordshire director Helen Marshall said the need for a huge number of homes had been "completely over-exaggerated".

She added: "A lot of people would like a five-bedroom house on a big plot of land in the countryside, but not many people actually need that."

"People need affordable housing. What need are we catering for? People choose to live and work here because of the rural feel to the county and we are in danger of killing that."

But David Edwards, regeneration boss at Oxford City Council, said:

"Given increasing pressure on housing for years, housebuilding has not kept pace with growing need."

He said the housing assessment was carried out by expert consultants, accepted by ministers and all the councils in Oxfordshire and endorsed by a planning inspector.

He added: "Due to the Green Belt and Oxford's tightly drawn city boundary, there has been little land available for building houses. Housebuilding has failed to meet the annual targets."



Dan Parker, social media manager at Oxford University Press, surrounded with Tears of Joy as Japanese-derived emoji is lauded as its Word of the Year

## Weeping tears of joy! Emoji makes it as Word of the Year

TEXTING teens have helped make "emoji" the Oxford Dictionaries' Word of the Year.

Staff have chosen a pictograph, the Face with Tears of Joy emoji, to reflect the increasing popularity of emoji in 2015.

Emoji culture has "exploded into

the global mainstream" over the past year, according to Oxford University Press.

OUP social media marketing manager Dan Parker, 26, said: "I have used the tears of joy emoji lots of times."

"They are a light-hearted way to

express a point and it's quick and efficient when you are texting."

Casper Grathwohl, president of Oxford Dictionaries, said emoji were "flexible and immediate".

He added: "When Andy Murray tweeted out his wedding itinerary entirely in emoji, he shared a subtle

mix of his feelings about the day directly with fans around the world."

"It was highly effective in expressing his emotions."

The word emoji derived from the Japanese words "e", meaning picture, and "moji" meaning a letter, or character.

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# Inspection sees school given an improved rating

Delight for headteacher as Ofsted's 'good' report praises primary's development

Kieran Davey  
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A PRIMARY school head teacher has spoken of her delight after being given a "good" rating by Ofsted, two years after being told to make improvements.

Wroxton Primary School was inspected in September 2013 by the education watchdog and told that levels of teaching were inconsistent, and pupils were not developing their writing fast enough.

But two years, on the school, in Lampitts Green, has been rated as "good" in all inspection categories, including its quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

Headteacher April Guinness, who has been at the school for seven years, said the result was in part due to changes in how Ofsted carried out inspections.

She said: "The new framework is very much focused on looking

at the school now and the progress that children are making.

"It does not look at just one lesson, they look at our results and talk to the children."

"There is a much bigger emphasis on the whole school."

Following the inspection on October 1, a report said the school, which has 93 pupils, had made "significant improvements" in teaching quality and pupil achievement.

It added: "Pupils make good progress from their starting points, including disadvantaged pupils, those with special educational needs and the most able."

"The wider curriculum is inspiring for staff and pupils who take part in a variety of interesting visits and activities to enrich the topics studied."

Mrs Guinness said: "We have had a huge turnover of staff and when we were first inspected we were disappointed to get the rating we did."

"But the result has been amazing, the staff had an inkling but could not tell anyone."

"It's not just the staff that are here now, it's ones that have been here before that have been congratulating us. It is due to all our hard work over the last year."

In other inspections, a pre-school and a childminder were rated good.

Cropredy Pre-School, in Station Road, was visited by inspector Sarah Holley in September and found to be good in all areas, but down from its outstanding rating of 2009.

Ms Holley said the quality of teaching ensured children made the best possible progress and praised staff for being good role models.

Childminder Marie-Lynette Houston, of Edinburgh Way, Banbury, got her second good rating in a row after being visited by inspector Amanda Perkin in September.

She said children made good progress in communication and Ms Houston was "kind, gentle and calm".





Campaigners and parents marching through the city centre streets of Oxford to a rally in Broad Street

# Parents march in centre cuts rally

Council proposal to shut children's facilities called 'outrageous' at protest

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HUNDREDS of parents have marched to campaign against Oxfordshire County Council's proposals to close children's centres.

A crowd formed in Oxford's Bonn Square at about 1pm on Saturday, before people marched to Broad Street, where speakers lambasted "vindictive" government funding cuts.

The county council has proposed closing all 44 of the county's children's centres, and its seven early intervention hubs, and replacing them with eight family and resource centres – including one in Banbury – as part of a plan to save up to £8 million.

Diane Wilson, a co-organiser of the protest, said: "Some have said that children's centres have saved their lives – people who have been out on the streets, or had post-natal depression. It's a false economy to close them."

"Lots of passers-by have come and signed the petition – people who don't know anything about it and think it's outrageous."

Last week, Prime Minister David Cameron was accused of being "blissfully ignorant" of the



Campaigners in Bonn Square

impact of the cuts after it was revealed he sent a letter to county council leader Ian Hudspeth, calling the closure of children's centres an "unwelcome and counter-productive" measure.

In response, organisers of the protest invited the Prime Minister to join the march, but he did not make an appearance.

Protester Jane English, 27, from Bicester, was with husband Marcus and four-month-old son Artie.

She said: "I'm a new mum and the children's centres were vital to me in terms of getting out and meeting other mums. Without them I would have suffered."

"I'm really upset about this; a lot of other mums are too."

Fellow parent Bekki Reiple Prevost, who attends the Kalei-

doscope Children's Centre in Kidlington with 15-month-old daughter Eris, said: "We are here to stand up for children's centres. They help families deal with things like depression."

"When you have a new baby most of your friends are at work and you can't drive or take a bus if the baby hasn't had vaccines."

Saturday's protest followed a similar demonstration in September. Alongside parents and campaigners were a number of Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat councillors from Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Sian Taylor, Labour city councillor for Northfield Brook, spoke to crowds next to the Clarendon Building, saying: "Don't let anyone tell you that these cuts are about the need to balance the books."

"This is a political choice, a vindictive move to hurt families that are most vulnerable."

County councillors Steve Curran and David Williams also took to the stage.

Mr Curran said: "When you get a government that cuts more than £290m out of a budget, there will be casualties."

"The work that goes on at children's centres is fantastic."

County council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said: "We are still listening, we have not made any decisions yet and we are still working with community groups."

## Staff change key to home issues

HIGH staff turnover and cuts to public services are to blame for the failings of Oxfordshire's care homes, according to a leading social care provider.

Eddy McDowall, chief executive of the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers, defended its members after a new report named Oxfordshire as the country's third worst for the number of care homes not coming up to scratch.

The report, by online care

home directory TrustedCare, said 18.4 per cent of county care homes "require improvement", according to health watchdog Care Quality Commission.

There are 201 registered care/nursing homes in the county.

Reacting to the figures, Mr McDowall said: "Staff turnover obviously impacts on delivery and consistency of services, but care providers work hard to ensure that staff are well-trained and motivated."

According to Mr McDowall, 44 per cent of new care home staff leave their posts within the first year of work.

The report also says the county has the most expensive nursing homes, at nearly £1,000 a week on average, and the fourth most expensive care homes, at £754 a week on average.

Mr McDowall added: "Social care is on the edge of crisis and there are some very important decisions to be made."

### POLICE BURGLARY ADVICE

**BANBURY:** Police in Cherwell start their annual burglary prevention campaign next week, to raise awareness of how to keep homes safe.

Officers will run crime prevention stands to provide advice to members of the public in Bridge Street on November 21, and in Orchard Way on November 24, both from 10am to 2pm.

### CO-OP MILESTONE

**KINGS SUTTON:** A long-serving Co-operative worker has been given an award marking her years of service.

Gwendolyn Sharpe, of the village's shop branch, was handed a milestone award after completing 15 years of service to the Midcounties Co-operative store. She also raises money for the village's playing fields.

### FLOOD RISKS CHECK ADVICE

**OXON:** The county council wants households to check online if they could be affected by floods. It tweeted a link to the Environment Agency's website, which offers flood maps at maps.environment-agency.gov.uk.

The constituencies of Oxford East and Henley were ranked in the top 50 high-risk areas in the UK this year.

### MPS IN CARE CRISIS LOBBY

The ageing population and introduction of the living wage could leave nearly 500 elderly people struggling to find a care home bed, sector bosses say.

Care England chief executive Professor Martin Green has written to the county's MPs, urging them to lobby the Government.

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## Apprentice hunt

**BANBURY:** Aspiring engineers can find out about apprenticeships at a careers event this month.

Staff from Engineering Trust Training Limited will be offering advice to potential applicants about a range of disciplines, including mechanical and electrical engineering.

The apprenticeships will offer full-time employment with salaries of £9,000 to £12,000. Applicants will require Grade D in GCSE English, maths and science.

The event is on November 26, 6pm to 7.30pm, at Norbar in Beaumont Road.

## Prize tales time

**OXON:** Young story writers in Oxfordshire have a chance to win £1,500 for their school and get their prose published.

Author Sam Hay is running the competition for children aged four to 11 to write a 200-word story or a poem inspired by winter or Christmas. The best 50 UK entries will be published in a free e-book next month.

One winner will get £1,500 for their school to spend on books or writing equipment. There are also two runners-up prizes of £250.

For how to enter, see [cartridgesave.co.uk/writechristmas](http://cartridgesave.co.uk/writechristmas).

## Primary schools in county are given £1.6m boost to pay for their PE initiatives



Rose Hill Year 4 PE classmates, from left, Divia Rajmohan, nine, Stephen Hannon and Summer Herbert, both eight

PRIMARY pupils will get more chances to play sport and stay active after almost 200 schools were handed £1.6 million to pay for additional PE initiatives.

The funding has been praised by former Arsenal and England footballer Martin Keown, who said his route to stardom began with a love of sport at a primary school in Cowley, Oxford.

The money comes from the Department for Education's PE and sport premium pot and is given to train teachers, buy equipment and bring in coaches.

Mr Keown said: "I had two great PE teachers – Nick Brown and Eric Metcalfe – who had such an enthusiasm for sport.

"It is such an important part of people's lives and quite often the PE teacher is the first time they come into contact with sport."

County schools got between £3,000 and £10,000 each.

At Rose Hill Primary School, Oxford, which was given £9,500, principal Sue Vermes said: "One of the things we do is make sure there are after school sports clubs for the children.

"The money also allows us to go to football tournaments."

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## Green team blitz town in clean-up

Litter-pickers' campaign to clear away rubbish from blighting the area

**Kieran Davey**  
[kdavey@nqo.com](mailto:kdavey@nqo.com)

BANBURY is being targeted with a week-long blitz of cleaning, clearing and de-cluttering.

Since setting out on Monday, officers from Cherwell District Council's green team have spent the week taking on their final "blitz" of the year.

During their last campaign, they collected 10 tonnes of rubbish during a clean-up of Kidlington in September.

The green team will build on their usual street cleaning duties to also tackle fly-tips, graffiti and litter problems in Grimsbury.

Residents can also take advantage of a free bulky waste collection service, where they can get rid of up to three large pieces of furniture or white goods, saving £16 on the usual cost.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for Clean, Green, Debbie Pickford, said: "We are



Cherwell District Council officers clearing up Kidlington in September

now preparing to undertake our final blitz of the year and want to encourage as many people as possible to get involved and get Grimsbury gleaming.

"The majority of the work we will undertake is the result of deliberate action by those who refuse to clean up after dogs or dispose of litter properly and

unfortunately the actions of a few impact on so many."

The blitz will take place until Friday. On Saturday, the team will also be holding a recycling roadshow in Burchester Place, between 10am and 4pm.

Residents will be able to buy discounted recycling bags and get advice on saving energy.

## Job seeker claimants hit record lows

THE number of people in the county claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has dipped below 2,000 for the first time.

It is a sharp fall compared to the same time last year, when there were almost 3,000 people signing on the dole, according to figures published on Wednesday by the Office for National Statistics.

Just 0.6 per cent of Oxfordshire's

population claimed JSA during October – half as many as in the South East overall.

But training and careers expert Michelle Howie, who runs Careers-Connect in Bicester, warned there was still a problem in some parts of the county.

She said: "Oxfordshire is a great place where the Job Seekers Allowance rates are

falling, but there are still pockets of deprivation where the funding has been cut.

"The figures look good but there are still a number of young people who need help."

Anne-Marie Dean, of JobCentre Plus Oxfordshire said: "These figures continue the downward trend of the past 12 to 18 months. We are very pleased."



## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



# Your Pet and the Signs of Ageing

It can sometimes be hard to notice the signals that indicate your pet is getting older. However, given that you know your pet better than anyone else you will

be best-placed to pick up on the signs of ageing in your companion, if you are aware of what to look for.

## Which signs may be noticeable?

### Activity

Some older pets will have less vitality and may find it difficult to perform activities that used to be easy for them. Ageing pets will often sleep more. Dogs may lose interest in their toys or show less enthusiasm when out for walks, where cats may be more reluctant to go outside and be less inclined to jump up or down from high surfaces. If you do notice any changes in your pet's activity with age, it is always worth taking your pet to the vet for a joint check. Joint sensitivities can sometimes be masked by the signs of ageing.

### Weight

The metabolism of elderly pets can change. Particularly in dogs, muscle is often lost while fat tends to develop. With the passing years, the chance of excess weight gain and obesity is often higher in dogs and cats. This weight gain may be noticeable as a change in your pet's silhouette, so their waist is less visible and their ribs are harder to feel. Speak to your vet for tailored advice if you notice any weight gain. It is important to adjust which diet you feed and the exact amount you feed to meet your pet's individual needs, matching their ageing status and activity level. Weighing the food out accurately at every meal is always recommended.

You may also need to encourage your companion to be more active, even if their daily activities need to be gentler than they were before. For example, you can encourage your cat to play with toys, even if they choose to spend more time inside the house and cat shelving can be installed to encourage them to climb. Dogs can be taken for more frequent, shorter walks on the lead, rather than longer, less regular off-lead runs.

Unlike dogs, once cats reach a second point in the ageing process (usually at around 12 years of age) they may actually start to lose some weight. If you notice your cat (or any pet) is losing weight, it is always worth getting them checked by a vet, to rule out any serious concerns. However, if no concerns are found, a higher energy diet may be recommended for cats at this point.

## Other Signs of Ageing

Other signs include behavioural changes, alterations in sight, hearing and smell and changes in your pet's coat and skin. Any of these changes should be reported to your vet for further investigation. Ageing may also bring about invisible changes to the kidneys, heart and other organs, so it is always worth taking your companion for regular senior pet health checks at the vets where these will be screened for.

## When will my pet start to age?

Of course, different sized pets start the ageing process at different times in their lives. All pets will age at slightly different rates but changes due to ageing are usually seen from the age of seven years in cats, five years in large breed dogs, seven years in medium breed dogs and eight years in small breed dogs. Nutrition can be an excellent way to help support your pet throughout their ageing process, so do ask your specialist pet food retailer or vet for their nutritional recommendations, which they will tailor to suit your pet's exact needs.

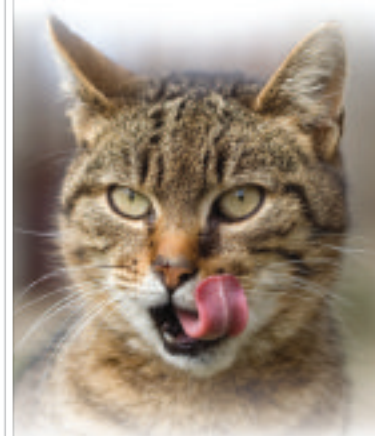


## ASK THE VET

**ROYAL CANIN® vet Catherine-Mary Howard answers some of your pet health questions.**

**Q** My two oldest pets, a nine year old Yorkshire Terrier and a twelve year old cat, have got a lot of tartar starting to build up on their teeth. I think this is just a normal part of the ageing process but my husband wants me to take them to get checked by a vet. Is this really necessary?

**A** Dental disease is very common in older pets but this does not mean it is part of the acceptable ageing process. Dental disease can be painful for pets and may even make your pet more sensitive to developing other conditions. I would absolutely agree that the best course of action is to get both of your pets checked over by a vet. It may be that the vet recommends your pets have their teeth cleaned at the veterinary surgery; you will not know if this is the case until they have been checked. At the very least the vet will be able to show you how to start teaching all your pets to accept having their teeth brushed using a pet toothpaste (never use a human toothpaste in pets). Plaque and tartar build up can be kept to an absolute minimum if you are able to brush your pet's teeth every day; this need not be as difficult as it sounds, once your pets get used to it! Alongside tooth brushing there are other ways to support your pet's dental health, including tailored ROYAL CANIN® diets and other dental chews. It is always advisable to consult your vet as they can match their nutritional recommendations to your pet's needs.



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© ROYAL CANIN® SAS 2015. All rights reserved. \*Terms and conditions apply. Closing date for entries 01/12/2015. 10 winners will be selected at random from all text, email and postal entries. Winners will be notified by letter, email or telephone within 14 days of the closing date. One entry per person. Prize consists of one 1.5kg - 2kg bag of either ROYAL CANIN® Indoor 7+, Outdoor 7+, Sterilized 7+, Ageing +12 or Sterilized 12+ for cats or one 1.5kg - 4kg bag of X-Small Adult 8+, X-Small Ageing 12+, Mini Adult 8+, Mini Ageing 12+, Medium Adult 7+, Medium Ageing 10+, Maxi Adult 5+ and Maxi Ageing 8+. Please state product preference in your entry. No correspondence will be entered into. No cash alternative. Texts cost 25p plus your normal operator rate.



# Young join tributes to fallen

Nine school pupils invited to lay a wreath to help their understanding of conflict

**Kieran Davey**  
kdavey@nqo.com

THE streets of Banbury fell silent for two minutes to remember soldiers who lost their lives in war.

A ceremony was held in People's Park, organised by the Banbury branch of the Royal British Legion, last Wednesday at 11am.

Paying their respects on Armistice Day were nine pupils from St John's Priory School, invited to lay a wreath as part of the service.

One was six-year-old Eliza-Jayne Biggadike, who celebrated her birthday the same day. She was born at 11am on November 11, 2009, at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury.

The service was also a big day for her family, as her father is a member of the 33rd Squadron at RAF Benson, and her maternal grandfather is German.

The school's admissions officer, Gemma Osborne, said: "It is something that we went to last year and I thought it would be nice to go along again and pay our respects."

"These things help with the children's understanding of what went on and they really enjoyed it."

"They always enjoy representing the school at these kinds of events, especially when it involves going



Nursery form captain Monty Douglas-Field, three, of St John's Priory School, who laid a wreath, above; college students applaud at the end of the service, right



Morton Huckfield, right, a member of the Banbury Royal British Legion branch for 26 years, stands up from his wheelchair to pay his respects in People's Park; Last Post, right



A standard bearer stands tall, top, at the People's Park ceremony in Banbury; Ann Schelshorn, above, with six-year-old granddaughter Eliza-Jayne Biggadike, born at 11am on November 11, 2009, at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury

out in the local area within the Banbury community.

"For each child involved, their understanding gets a bit deeper as they get older, but all gave their respects

in an honourable way."

The chairman of the Banbury branch of the Royal British Legion, Chris Smithson, said: "The service was very good. It was well supported

and we estimate that around 200 people turned up.

"The forces community here are very well supported and we often raise the most money in the county."

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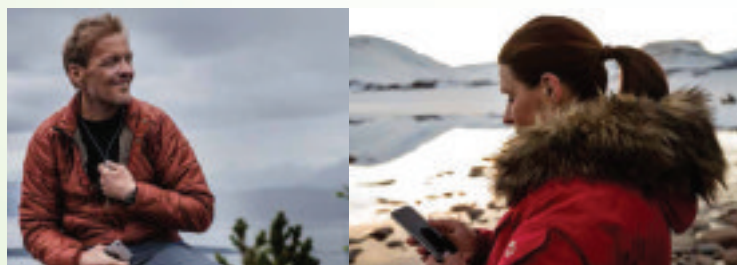
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# Plan to extend marina's moorings by 100 berths

## Site's operator asks those in community who harbour concerns to get in touch

**Kieran Davey**  
kdavey@nqo.com

MORE boaters could be able to take advantage of the tranquil surroundings of Cropredy Marina after an application to extend its mooring capacity was submitted.

New proposals would see the marina's capacity increased by 100 berths, which would help to accommodate customers left on its waiting list.

The extension will be built north of the existing marina, on the Oxford Canal, on land currently used for farming.

Marina owner and operator Tim Langer said: "When developing Croppedy Marina in 2013 we worked closely with, and listened to, the local community, parish council, local authority and other organisations.

"We will take the same approach with the proposed extension, and we actively encourage anyone who has concerns or who would like to find out more to contact us.

"As with the initial development,



The Oxford Canal at Cropredy is a busy place each August, during the annual Fairport Convention folk festival

we are confident that the new marina will have a positive effect on the village in terms of jobs and spending at local businesses, thus helping Cropredy village continue to thrive.

"The scheme does not involve any spoil being carried off-site, nor does it include the construction of any additional buildings."

He added that, if plans were approved, work would begin in spring next year with the aim of completing the extension by the



Tim Langer, above; the village sign highlights its waterways connections

Foodbank help  
for the needy in  
the community

BOXES of food collected by schools and community groups in Banbury last month have been donated to help people in need.

Social housing operator Sanctuary Housing held a week-long Harvest Festival in October to encourage people to rally round and support Banbury Foodbank.

Last week staff delivered six boxes of food to the foodbank, which is part of the Christian charity Trussell Trust.

Foodbank manager Sarah Williams said: "It is very encouraging when local organisations like Sanctuary donate to the foodbank."

"It's only through such generous donations that the foodbank is able to help those in need in our local community."

More than half a tonne of unwanted fruit was donated at a juicing evening on October 12 at the Hill Youth and Community Centre. People in a crisis get issued with a voucher for the foodbank to get three days' supply of emergency food.

## Big Draw displays

ALL SAINTS Church in Middleton Cheney will host a celebration of this year's Big Draw event on Friday.

Families joined the Middleton Cheney Library Supporters Group last month to create animations, collages and drawings with help from Arts Council England.

Visitors to the church will see moving images created during the workshops, along with other displays.

Wine, soft drinks and canapés will be available from 6.30pm, before the screening at 7pm.

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# Finale does not disappoint

**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2 (12A, 137 mins) A sci-fi thriller with Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Sam Claflin. Director: Francis Lawrence**

AT a critical juncture in *Mockingjay – Part 2*, Woody Harrelson's grizzled mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, pays tribute to his battle-scarred protégée, Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence).

"I'll say this Katniss, you don't disappoint," he beams.

Similar praise could be lavished on the concluding chapter of the dystopian saga, based on the novels by Suzanne Collins.

This bruising battle royal remains faithful to the books and largely justifies the decision to cleave the final salvo in two.

A nail-biting subterranean set piece, pitting rebels against snarling creatures called mutts, is a thing of terrifying beauty.

Danny Strong and Peter Craig's script doesn't shy away from the moral conundrum of conflict for a generation whose childhood innocence has been stained with blood.

If *Mockingjay – Part 1* dragged its feet, trading verbal blows between Katniss and Machiavellian warmonger President Snow (Donald Sutherland), the conclusion lands one devastating blow after another as simmering animosity ignites full-blown slaughter.

*Part 2* opens on Katniss's anguished face as she recovers from a skirmish with brainwashed Hunger Games competitor Peeta (Josh Hutcherson).

The unified Districts are preparing for an assault on the Capitol and Katniss must lead the charge, guided by District 13's crusading President, Alma Coin (Julianne Moore), gamesmaker Plutarch

Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and lovestruck childhood friend Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth).

Intelligence reveals the president has planted booby traps around the ruined city, to annihilate the rebels before they reach his fortified mansion.

Katniss, Peeta, Gale and their allies venture behind enemy lines to launch a covert strike.

However, casualties are high and the gung-ho heroine must watch as the people she loves risk everything for liberty.

*Mockingjay – Part 2* is a fitting and relentlessly grim conclusion, distinguished by breathless action sequences that recall the first film in 2012.

Lawrence delivers another emotionally wrought performance, torn between Hutcherson and Hemsworth's rival suitors.

**THE DRESSMAKER (12A, 118 mins) A comedy/romance with Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth and Hugo Weaving. Director: Jocelyn Moorhouse**

REVENGE, mother-daughter bonds and the transformative power of clothes are the threads stitched deftly throughout Jocelyn Moorhouse's quirky Australian comedy drama, which induces tears as much as giggles.

At its heart is the beautifully shifting relationship between the titular dressmaker, Tilly Dunnage (Kate Winslet), and her senile single mother, Molly (Judy Davis) – who both, in turn, need mothering.

Based on the bestseller by Rosalie Ham, who adapted it for the screen, *The Dressmaker* is set in the 1950s in the small town of Dungatar.

Through eerie black and white flashbacks, we learn that Tilly was sent away as a child for her involvement in the death of a schoolboy.

Having found her metier as a seamstress, she's returned for



Jennifer Lawrence, as heroine Katniss Everdeen, heads the cast in the final episode of the Hunger Games saga

her elderly mother, Molly, and to uncover who is to blame for what happened to her as a child.

Tilly finds her mother bedridden in a filthy house, not recognising her own daughter, and sets about cleansing and nursing her back to health.

Tea chests of exotic fabrics arriving from Paris soon pique the interest of Sergeant Farrat (a superb Hugo Weaving) while Tilly also captures the attention of footballer Teddy McSwiney (Liam Hemsworth), whose family has been keeping an eye on old Molly.

Winslet is never overly challenged by her role, but plays Tilly's softer, more vulnerable side extremely well.

## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director James Miller feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.' So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



## Cake Bookworm

**Numero Zero by Umberto Eco, hardback by Harvill Secker, £16.99 (ebook £9.99)**

A NOVEL of two stories; one, the shooting of Mussolini and his mistress in 1945, the other that of Colonna, a writer in 1992 Milan who accepts the task of ghost-writing a journalist's memoir. The journalist in question – Braggadocio – is setting up a newspaper titled *Domani* (Tomorrow), financed by a magnate and not intended for publication. Instead, the financier's intention is to ruffle the feathers of the rich and powerful, in the hope they will bribe him to shut it down. A neat set-up, until Braggadocio uncovers a conspiracy involving Mussolini's death that turns out to be true. Though it contains all the skillful twists and turns you'd expect from Eco, it's certainly not one for those coming to him for the first time, and the pay-off isn't sufficiently satisfying. Nonetheless, the exploration of the nature of

the media makes it a novel for our times.

**New Words For Old: Recycling Our Language For The Modern World by Caroline Taggart, hardback by O'Mara Books, £9.99 (ebook £4.74)**

OUR language had smoke and fog for a long time before we needed to combine them to describe smog. And a folder only got its name because it's made by folding a piece of card. Caroline Taggart's latest lexical offering looks at how English repurposes its existing components when up against new concepts and inventions. Taggart arranges her etymological studies in loosely thematic chapters containing individual entries on words with a few paragraphs of explanation apiece. With no overarching ideas wrapping it all up, it's an unsatisfying read as a whole, but taken in bits you'll feel like an instant linguistics expert. And it is a hard book to

resist dipping into, if only to find out how your household budget owes its name to a spat between 18th-century politicians.

**Tales From Schwartzgarten: Marius And The Band Of Blood by Christopher William Hill, hardback by Orchard Books, £10.99 (ebook £7.49)**

CHRISTOPHER William Hill returns with the fourth book in the *Tales From Schwartzgarten* series, a must for fans of Roald Dahl and Lemony Snicket. When Marius Myerdorf's parents are killed, he is sent to live with his great-great-uncle Kalvitas in Schwartzgarten. But Marius is convinced his uncle does not want him, so runs away and meets a society of orphans called the Band of Blood. Soon murders start happening around the town and it's up to Marius and his friends to put a stop to it. There are plenty of twists and turns and the storyline is so good it gets hard to put it down.

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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**Charity lunch:** The Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester. Two-course lunch organised by the Inner Wheel of Bicester in aid of The Hummingbird Cancer Support and Therapy Centre, Launton. There will be a talk by guitarist John Dunsterville on his rock 'n' roll lifestyle. 12pm. £17.50. 07795 066648.

**Blenheim Palace talk:** Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. Witney U3A (University of the Third Age) is hosting a talk on the Woodstock palace in the Second World War. 2pm. Non members welcome. 01993 779168.

**Christmas gift fair:** Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Range of gifts made by local craftspeople are for sale until January 9. These include ceramics, paintings, textiles, prints, jewellery, bags and cards. The museum is also closed on Sundays Free. 01235 771447.

### FRIDAY

**Abingdon Farmers' Market:** Variety of stalls with local produce on the third Friday of the month in Abingdon Market Place. 8.30am to 1.30pm.

**Pop-up Cottage at Christmas:** Village Hall, School Lane, Wigginton. A group of makers and bakers are selling their products ranging from handmade gifts to antiques and curiosities, including prints, original artwork, hand-printed cards, cakes, jewellery, soft furnishings and books. 10am. Free.

### SATURDAY

**Quiz night:** The Pine Lodge, Thame Road, Little Milton. Ticket includes two-course dinner and there will be a licensed bar with local ale and wine supplied by the village shop (corkage £2 per bottle). Guests are welcome on their own or in a team. 7pm. Tickets at £8 are available at LM Post Office.

**Linocut exhibition:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. This exhibition, Inked!, is presented by Susan Wheeler and Diana Ashdown and provides an insight into the processes, techniques and materials behind print making. Much of the work will be on sale as limited edition prints. The exhibition is open until December 20 and is closed on Mondays.

**Christmas crafts:** The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. The Oxfordshire Craft Guild presents its Christmas selling exhibition, featuring many of the county's leading craft makers and designers, displaying jewellery, textiles, ceramics, treasures and keepsakes. 10am. Free. 01993 811456.

**Coffee morning:** Village Hall Millennium Room, The Green, Steventon. There will be a Christmas raffle and bring and buy stalls at this event, organised by Steventon Choral Society. 10.30am-12.30pm. Free entry. 01235 848292.

**Antiques fair:** The Holt Hotel, Hopcrofts Holt, Steeple Aston. About 40 dealers will be present on Saturday and Sunday offering a wide range of items, including silver, porcelain, paintings and prints, furniture, glass, jewellery, maps and figurines. 10am. Entrance £1, under 12s free. Parking free. 01869 347356.

**Sobell Christmas gift fair:** Radley College, Radley. Sobell House Hospice

Charity will once again hold this annual event, on Saturday and Sunday, with more than 60 stalls offering a variety of items from children's books and toys, homeware, clothing, jewellery, food and drink, to accessories and arts and crafts. Refreshments available. 10am. £6, concessions £3.50. 01865 857007.

**Christmas market:** St Helen's Church, West St Helen Street, Abingdon. Refreshments, homemade cakes and preserves, gifts, books, jewellery, pictures and Christmas decorations will be on sale. Free entry. 01235 520144.

**Village market:** Village Hall, Church Road, Northmoor. 10am. Free. 01865 300534.

**Christmas fair:** Abingdon Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon. Stalls will include cakes, preserves, crafts, gifts, knitted and crocheted items, stocking fillers, cards, books and games. Santa will be in his grotto and there will be refreshments on sale. 10am. Free. 01235 530080.

**Christmas bazaar and food fair:** Village Hall, Oaksmere, Appleton. Christmas stalls and food, with books, tombola, raffle and teas. 2pm. 01865 862434.

**Christmas fete:** Recreation Hall, Witney Road, Long Hanborough. In aid of Long Hanborough Evergreen Club including raffle, tombolas, nearly new, toys and bric-a-brac. 2pm. Entry 30p.

### SUNDAY

**Harwell craft fair:** Village Hall, High Street, Harwell. Local crafts and refreshments. 11am. Free entry. 01235 861057.

**Second Lease walk:** Meet at the car park, Woodford Way, Witney. There will a choice of a seven-mile walk taking in Woodstock and Wootton and a five-mile route through South Leigh and Tar Woods. 9.30am. See www.wospweb.com/site/second-lease for details.

**Exploring Otmoor:** Walk led by Peter Barker at Otmoor Nature Reserve, meeting at the car park at the end of Otmoor Lane, Beckley (ref. SP570126). It is hoped that there will be a massive display by starlings as dark falls, called a 'murmuration' as they whirl and swoop over the reserve. 2.30pm. Free but donations welcome. 01865 820522.

**Christmas gift and craft fair:** Hagbourne CofE Primary School, Main Road, East Hagbourne. Great start to the festive season, with more than 50 stalls selling hand-crafted gifts for the whole family, plus a crafts room for the children, Santa in his grotto, refreshments and carols from the school choir. 11am. Entry £1, children free. Those with their own products to sell should contact Eve Setch for information on 07890 214237.

### WEDNESDAY

**Bring and buy sale:** Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize. There will be home produce, Christmas cakes, plants, gift Stall, £1 table, books, clothing, jewellery and raffle. 11am. Free entry. 01235 868276.

## Comedy

### FRIDAY

**James Acaster:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. This nifty, and snazzy 30-year-old is doing his best to improve his posture. He has

**To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)**

**Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.**

appeared on *Nevermind the Buzzcocks*, *Mock the Week*, *8 Out of 10 Cats* and *Russell Howard's Good News*, and was a Edinburgh Comedy Award Best Show Nominee for 2012-14. Don't miss out on a fantastic evening of laughs. 8pm. £15, concessions £14. 01235 515144.

### SATURDAY

**Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford:** Four comics from the top of the UK and international circuit. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 0400.

## Dance

### THURSDAY

**The Giving Tree:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot. Youngsters from Didcot Girls' School and Didcot Sixth Form College will be performing choreography pieces in the contemporary style during the first half of the show and in the second half will take the audience through the story of The Giving Tree. 7.30pm

### SATURDAY

**Charity danceathon:** Fitfigures Studio, Carterton South Industrial Estate, Black Bourton Road, Carterton. A day of dancing to raise money for the Niemann-Pick charity. There are eight sessions of dance including salsa, rock 'n' roll and Fitsteps. £2 per half-hour session. Beginners welcome. Call 01993 776059 to book.

**Kinecroft Academy of Dance:** Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Annual showcase for the dancers of the Kinecroft Academy. 2.30pm and 7pm on Saturday, 2.30pm on Sunday. Adults £9.50, senior citizens £6, under 16s £6. 01491 825000.

### SUNDAY

**The Snow Queen:** The Beacon, Portway, Wantage. Ballet Theatre UK stage a production of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale, following the story of Gerda in her quest to find her friend Kay, whom the Snow Queen has placed under an evil spell. 3pm. £14 per person. 01235 763456.

## Film

### THURSDAY

**Alone Across the Pacific:** Abingdon College and District Film Society event at Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. The film features the story of Horie Kenichi, the first person to sail solo across the Pacific, who arrived in America with no passport and money in 1962. He was initially criticised in his native Japan but feted in San Francisco. Alex Jacoby, a specialist in Japanese cinema, introduces this film. 7.30pm. £6. 01235 521976.

## Music

### FRIDAY

**Didcot Red Hot Blues Club:** Great Western Staff Association Club, Station Road, Didcot. Pete Boss & the Bluehearts will be this month's live blues

act. Bar opens at 8pm, music from 9pm. £5 on the door. 07788 645989.

### FRIDAY

**Bon Giovi:** The Northcourt, Abingdon United, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. This top Bon Jovi tribute act, which has played in more than 30 countries, will perform the New Jersey band's greatest hits such as *Livin' on a Prayer*, *It's My Life*, *Wanted Dead or Alive*. 7.30pm. £10 in advance, £12 on door. 01235 856076.

**T Rextasy:** The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury. This tribute band has been playing around the world for more than 20 years and will be performing the hits of T Rex, including *I Love to Boogie*. 8pm. £18.50. 01295 279002.

### SATURDAY

**Gerard Cousins:** The Welsh guitarist, composer and arranger whose musical tastes are broad and include Welsh songs will perform at the Centre for Reflection, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold. 7.30pm. £12, concessions £10 including a glass of wine. 01235 850423.

**Maria Dunn:** Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascot-under-Wychwood. The folk singer is often compared to Woody Guthrie for her keen social awareness and her unvarnished songs about the lives of working men and women. Support from Kim Lowings and The Greenwood. 8pm. £8 in advance from www.wegotickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub, £10 on the door

**Orchestral concert:** Burford School, Cheltenham Road. Burford Orchestra will perform an autumn concert featuring Elgar's famous cello concerto, Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on Welsh Folk Tunes, Malcolm Arnold's Tam O'Shanter overture and Stanford's 3rd symphony. 7.30pm. £8, children £4. 01993 830559.

**Handel's Messiah:** Wantage Parish Church, Market Square. Wantage Choral Society will be joined by four soloists and accompanied by an organ for this famous choral work. 7.30pm. £10 in advance from the Vale and Downland Museum or geoffswilliams@talktalk.net, £12 on the door. 01235 798349.

**Banbury Symphony Orchestra:** SS Peter and Paul Church, Church Street, Deddington. The group's autumn concert will feature a work for piano as well as orchestral works. The programme will include Brahms's arousing Academic Festival Overture, Liszt's symphonic poem *Mazeppa*, Schumann's 4th Symphony and Dohnanyi's *Variations on a Nursery Song*, for which the orchestra will be joined by Romanian pianist Madalina Rusu. 7.30pm. £10, under 18s free. Tickets from Banbury Tourist Information Centre, www.wegotickets.com and members of the orchestra. 01608 645589.

**Darren Hunt:** Classic rock tunes at Windrush Club, High Street, Witney. 9pm. 01993 702207.

### SUNDAY

**Musical fundraiser:** St Leonard's Church, Sunningwell. First in a series of Sunday afternoon concerts in aid of

repair work to the church's fabric. The Glasshouse String Quartet will perform work by Haydn and Borodin. 3pm. £10, children free. 01865 736166.

**Partitas, Poems and Preludes:** St Denys's Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale. Banish the November blues with Music in the Vale's celebration of St Cecilia's Day. Pianist Lionel Sainsbury will perform a varied programme with Bach, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Scriabin. Refreshments available after the concert. 3pm. Admission by programme at £10 from Vogue Hairdressing, 28 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, 01367 710476 or David Pedder on 01367 718420 / djpedderdp@aol.com

**Burford Singers:** St John the Baptist Church, Church Green, Burford. The group will perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. 7.30pm. Tickets £10-£21 from The Madhatter Bookshop, High Street, Burford.

### SUNDAY

**Bee Gees tribute:** Hackett's Food and Drink, Wesley Walk, Witney. 8pm. £10. 01993 700858.

**Advent concert:** All Saints' Church, High Street, Sutton Courtenay. The programme by the All Saints' Singers will include Haydn: Missa Sancti Nicolai, Mozart: Regina Coeli K276, Tantum Ergo K142 and Te Deum K141 under the leadership of music director Alexander Berry. 7.30pm. £12, under 16s £6. 01235 848205.

**Calan:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Fiddles, guitar, accordion, bagpipes and step dancing explode into life as Calan perform songs and tunes from their album *Dinas*. These five young musicians give a fresh and vibrant sound to traditional Welsh music. 8pm. £15, concessions £13.50. 01235 515144.

## Theatre

### THURSDAY

**Camelot the Pantomime:** Dorchester Village Hall. Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society perform a panto take on the Arthurian legend. Until Saturday. £10, under 12s £6, family £25. Tickets from Hair, Lily's and Co-op in Dorchester-on-Thames, Aisha in Warborough and the Post Office in Clifton Hampden or see www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads

**Aladdin:** Memorial Hall, Brown's Lane, Charlbury. Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) will perform this fun-filled family pantomime. See if Aladdin will be able to win the girl of his dreams, prevent the evil Abanazer from taking over the world and if people will stop force-feeding bananas to the princess's pet monkey. Performances on Thursday and Friday at 7.30pm and on Saturday at 2pm and 7.30pm. Adults £9, children £6, other concessions £7. Tickets are available online at www.wegotickets.com/cads or Cotswold Frames, News & Things, and The Post Office, Charlbury. 01608 811805.

### WEDNESDAY

**Humbug:** Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon. Studio Theatre Club presents a new musical rendition of *A Christmas Carol*, about a mean-spirited old miser is shown the error of his ways by four ghosts. It has new songs written especially for the show and performed by on-stage carollers. Production runs until Saturday, November 28. 7.30pm. £10, concessions £9. For tickets, see www.studiotheatreclub.com





Ricky Johnson scored a hat-trick as Banbury beat Burnham 5-0

# In-form Ricky bags hat-trick

Johnson hits third treble as Banbury march on

RICKY Johnson hit his third hat-trick of the season as Banbury United thumped ten-man Burnham 5-0 on Monday night to move up to fourth in the table.

The Puritans could not have started the Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West encounter any better as Duran Martin gave them the lead after just 34 seconds.

And it paved the way for what was to come. On 26 minutes, Leam Howards was fouled by Alex Dimitrijevic in the area and, after the Burnham man was sent off, Johnson stepped

up to double their lead.

The Banbury striker then converted Callum White's cross for 3-0 on 38 minutes and completed his hat-trick in the 65th minute, slotting coolly past goalkeeper Samuel Gray.

The Puritans saved the best until last, as on 79 minutes a Zac McEachran corner fell to Martin who struck a sweet half-volley into the corner from 22 yards.

Gray then denied Martin his hat-trick as Banbury finished well on top.

**Banbury United:** Harding, White, Steedman, Martin, Westbrook, Gunn, Stanbridge (Browne 60), Nash, Johnson (Joyce 66), Howards, Bell

(McEachran 56). Subs not used: Blackstock, Kalakoutis.

Attendance: 101

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Division 1 South & West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cinderford Tn	16	11	4	1	31	10	37
North Leigh	15	11	1	3	37	12	34
Winchester City	15	10	3	2	45	19	33
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>
Tiverton Tn	16	8	6	2	22	13	30
Swindon Sup	15	9	1	5	25	17	28
Shortwood Utd	15	9	0	6	26	20	27
Bishops Cleeve	16	7	5	4	26	26	26
Taunton Tn	13	7	3	3	23	14	24
Evesham Utd	15	6	4	5	21	16	22
Slimbridge	17	6	4	7	20	22	22
Larkhall Ath	15	5	6	4	25	23	21
Yate Tn	17	6	3	8	24	23	21
Marlow	14	5	2	7	26	28	17
AFC Totton	16	5	2	9	28	31	17
Mangotsfield Utd	14	4	4	6	23	32	16
Didcot Tn	12	4	3	5	24	23	15
Burnham	18	4	3	11	22	40	15
Wimborne Tn	15	4	2	9	32	38	14
Bridgwater Tn	15	4	2	9	17	33	14
Wantage Tn	17	3	2	12	25	33	11
Bashley	16	0	0	16	6	74	0

## Stevenson's the hero in Bulls victory

ALEX Stevenson's late penalty earned league leaders Banbury Bulls a 21-19 win over Earlsdon in Midlands 2 West South.

The victory in Coventry helped Bulls open up a three-point lead over Berkswell & Balsall and Spartans.

An Ed Phillips penalty gave Banbury a 3-0 lead, before Josh Deegan crashed over for an unconverted try to make it 8-0.

But two scores, one converted, saw the hosts go ahead 12-8.

The visitors responded with Matt Goode going over and Sam Stoop converting, but Earlsdon came back with a converted try of their own to make it 19-15 and set up a tense finish.

Stevenson then slotted a penalty to move Banbury within a point.

And with the clock running down, Stevenson was on hand to land another three-pointer and help Bulls to their sixth victory of the season.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

The past and present cross paths and you left asking yourself some questions which you're not sure will ever be fully answered. The problem is, you have been asking the wrong people Aries. Giving yourself time to step back on Tuesday and again on Thursday tells you exactly what you need to do. Ring now so I can help you live life to the full.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Your close ones want you to help them make some really important decisions in their lives, but doing this successfully relies on you remembering who they are and what they want and not just what you feel is the right path. Taking all of this into consideration by Thursday can help them make decisions in all your interests. Ring now to reveal a liar.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

The only way you are going to get a close one to meet you half way in current issues is to step back and give them the leeway they have been asking for. This week is all about compromise and you showing you can be the bigger and more mature person, which we know you can, don't we? Ring now to make sense of last weekend's dramas.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Your stars are going to be trying to lead you into temptations in love that might not be in your best interests. Try not to rush, but remember that time is on your side and use it to your full advantage. Someone you didn't expect to see again is back with a very large apology. Ring now to hear why it's worth showing your forgiving side next weekend.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Love is strong for your sign this week Gemini and, for once, I would encourage you to follow up any instant attractions you feel and even to make the first move should the inclination so take you. Make sure your home is tidy. You're set to have a very unexpected visitor. Ring now to hear who you have to avoid in business this November.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

With all the events and dramas which have been going on in your life, it's no wonder you've only been able to take in half of them. Listen to the advice of fellow fire signs, Aries and Leo, as they know you better than you know yourself since the dramas began at the end of October. Ring now so I can tell you the way it should be.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You may find yourself taking on the roles of others this week, as the stars encourage you to try your hand at new things and to test your limits. Try not to fall out with younger people until you have uncovered the whole story about what is going on in their lives. Ring now to hear why I know this is a great month to make a crossover in your career.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Are you talking for the sake of it, or do you really have something to say? Make sure you have your facts straight as those close to you already had theirs at hand last week. Compromise is needed in a family matter which, a few days ago, no one was willing to back down on. Ring now to hear why I want you to spend more time with your family this month.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

News of someone you care for gives you reason to want to make a change to your plans for the weeks and months ahead, but just make sure you consult those it would upset or you could end up with a bigger problem than you started with. New faces in your career give you new ideas in your industry. Ring now for a message from Mars.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

It is that a self indulgent mood you're in, or are you just confident that you're in the right this week Aquarius? It seems you've fallen into a few bad habits in recent days, but Thursday and Friday are your perfect days to combat them head on and to face any fears. Gemini bring a better schedule to your work. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

For a long time now you have had preconceived ideas about a new face and just what their intentions were within your circle. However from Tuesday, you discover that you were way off with your thoughts and that they can in fact be an asset to all your lives. Make sure you let them know they're welcome by Thursday. Ring now for structure in relationships.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You're going to be tempted to take gambles in love, but the best cause of action for you my friend would be to act only from the heart. You see, it's clear from this week's line up that you're going to have to live with the repercussions for quite some time. Open your eyes. This is the beginning of your life at last. Ring now for structure.

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# CakeMotoring

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## In brief

- SAT-NAV giant TomTom has launched CURFER for Apple and Android phones, an app that provides feedback on drivers on their behaviour. It uses an on-board diagnostics device connected to a smartphone to provide accurate feedback on braking, acceleration, cornering and idling. There is also the opportunity to share the results on social media, so friends can compete to get the best performance. Drivers are rewarded with digital badges. Thomas Becher, of TomTom Telematics, said: "The app takes a novel approach to visualising and monitoring your driving data, meaning people can now show and share their driving style with others."
- The Jaguar E-Type is the best British car in history, according to a global vote staged by Classic & Sportscar – The London Show. Thousands of votes were cast by visitors from all over the world. James Elliott, Classic & Sports Car magazine group editor, said: "The E-Type has it all, looks to stop traffic even today and a driving experience that has stood the test of time." The car was unveiled at the 1961 Geneva Motor Show and was an instant hit.

# Tempting Tivoli is a crowd pleaser

## Auto facts

**Model:** SsangYong Tivoli SE 1.6 diesel  
**Price:** £14,200  
**Insurance group:** 19  
**Fuel consumption (Combined):** 65.7mpg  
**Top speed:** 107mph  
**Length:** 419.5cm/165.1in  
**Width:** 179.5cm/70.1in  
**Luggage capacity:** 14.9 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 10.3 gallons/47 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 113g/km  
**Warranty:** Five years/unlimited mileage

By David Duffy  
david.duffy@nqo.com

IT HAS been a long time since a road test car caused such a stir in the office.

When three people approach you in the space of half an hour and ask: "Is that your car in the car park?" you know something special is going on.

You could understand it if it was a Bentley, Porsche or Rolls-Royce, but for a compact, competitively-priced Korean car to cause such a fuss is remarkable.

So what's all the fuss about? The Tivoli is a chunky sports utility vehicle, big on equipment, safety and warranty, with a compact body, low fuel consumption and temptingly low price tag.

While the exterior is enough to draw the crowds, The interior is a revelation for SsangYong, which has massively upped its game in providing a fit and finish to rival not only its Korean competitors, but give it a fighting chance against any vehicle in the SUV sector.

Fitted with a six-speed manual transmission, the 1.6-litre diesel, that meets Euro 6 emission targets, is slick, smooth and surprisingly quiet.

Around town, the Tivoli is



The new Tivoli proved surprisingly eye-catching in the office car park

light and easy to manage and the weight of the power steering can be switched between three settings at the touch of a button.

At speed, the car sits settled, quietly munching miles without fuss.

The test model in SE trim was finished in a business-like grey cloth trim, with 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control, the aforementioned 'smart' steering (normal, comfort and sport modes), an RDS/Bluetooth radio and seven airbags.

Move up the three-trim level range and everything from leather upholstery and dual

zone climate control, to front and rear parking sensors, automatic headlamps, rain-sensing wipers and a TomTom navigation system is available.

If you have even deeper pockets, The car can be personalised with two-tone colour roof combinations and red leather interior.

Two-wheel-drive models (4x4 models are on their way shortly) start from £12,950 with the diesel-powered, entry-level model tested here priced at a little over £14,000.

The Tivoli, made in South Korea, is certain to be the company's biggest seller here.

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## Winter warning on road grip Boost safety with cold weather tyres

OUR brief Indian summer is now sadly past and winter is on the way, with forecasters predicting the worst weather in a long time.

Many drivers are thinking about fitting cold weather tyres to their cars. But should they and, if so, when is the right time to make the change?

First things first: what are winter tyres? They are tyres designed specifically for use in colder temperatures. They are not snow tyres, which have a much more aggressive tread pattern and are for use on 4x4 off-road vehicles.

Winter tyres are made from rubber that allows more movement in the tread pattern

than summer tyres, which allows slush and snow to disperse. This design also allows the tyre to warm up more quickly, which helps it provide more grip rather than summer tyres, which remain brittle at temperatures below 7-degrees centigrade.

That temperature is the key to knowing when to switch to winter tyres from your car's usual summer rubber. It's wise to change before the chilly weather sets in so you are not caught out when the first frosty blasts arrive.

This does not mean you need to worry about driving on winter tyres in warmer conditions, as this type of tyre remains fully

functional and completely safe at temperatures of up to 20-degrees centigrade. It gives you a lot of leeway in picking when to swap to winter tyres, but late autumn is a good bet before frost and ice starts to appear in the mornings.

If you stick with a set of summer tyres, you greatly increase the risk of a collision on snowy or icy roads. On summer tyres, it takes the average car 43m to stop from 30mph on snowy roads, while a car with winter tyres will pull up in 35m. That's a difference of two car lengths.

In winter, the risk of drivers being involved in a collision increases six-fold.

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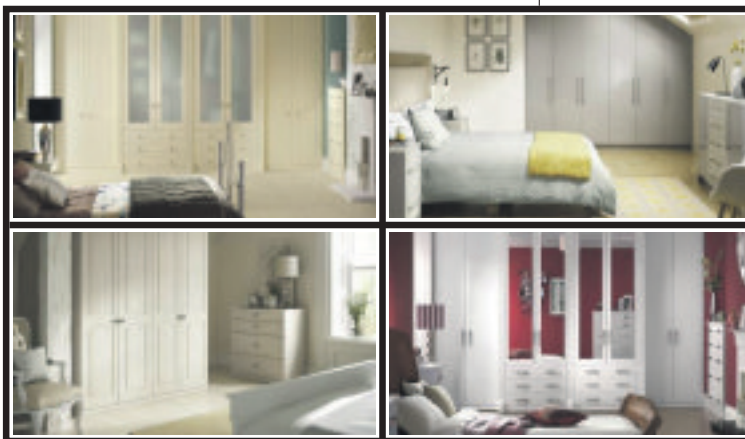
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